

I should doubt the trustworthiness of the last, because all the information I have, public and private, is that the first thing the Standard Oil Company wishes is to have *anybody* else nominated to succeed me in the Presidency, and they are trying to deter all litigation simply to have it passed over the fourth of March next. But the rumor is of importance because it shows the kind of thing that will be said, and will inevitably be said of any man who, having been instructed for Taft, changes and goes for me. . . . Can you not quietly inform the gentlemen in question how strongly I feel (and I trust how strongly you also feel) that they ought to abide by their instructions? I think this is important from their own standpoint, and what is of infinitely more consequence, from the standpoint of the party and the country."

May 29,
1908.

A line in addition to what I wrote you yesterday, as I fear I did not express quite as plainly as I should my feeling on one point. I most strenuously object to any friend of mine going for me on *any* ballot. But what I wanted to convey was that as regards the first ballot the only honorable course, in my judgment, which an instructed delegate can follow is to vote in accordance with his instructions. To do otherwise would necessarily give rise to very unpleasant comment, not only as regards the delegate himself but as regards the man for whom he voted. As a matter of fact, we will nominate Taft on the first ballot by about 700

votes; so we do not really have to concern
ourselves with
what comes after the first ballot, and my
object is to keep
men square on this ballot. But I need
hardly add that
even if there should have to be another ballot,
my friends
are *not* to go for me.

May 29,
1908.

To the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott: As to the
matter
of my nomination, it seems to me that the
proper
ground to take is that any one who
supposes that I
have been scheming for it is not merely a fool,
but shows
himself to be a man of low morality. He reflects
upon him-